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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR: Peter Gwyther ) EXAMINER:  
SERIAL NO.: )  
FILING DATE: ) ART UNIT:  
FOR: SPINAL CORD ) DATE: October 23, 2001  
REMOVAL TOOL WITH )  
ADJUSTABLE BLADES )

10/045220 pro  
JC979 U.S. Pat. Off.  
#7

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the following items are made of record to assist the Patent & Trademark Office in its examination of this application and is, in the opinion of the attorney designated below for applicant(s), information relevant to the closest prior art of which that person is aware. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other art than that identified exists.

**FOREIGN PAT. NO.**  
EP 0890 313 B1  
(w/English translation)

**COUNTRY**  
EPC

**PUBLICATION DATE**  
01/13/1999

DE 197 57 745 C1

Germany

01/07/1999

A copy of each of the foregoing items and Form PTO 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony P. DeLio  
Reg. No. 18,729

DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC  
121 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL671779515US Date of Deposit: October 23, 2001 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231

Name: Kara Laudano Signature: Kara Laudano